

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1        1.    A method comprising:  
2        uploading a scanned barcode from a portable scanner; and  
3        processing at least the scanned barcode electronically.
  
- 1        2.    The method of claim 1, wherein the scanned barcode  
2        is a coupon barcode scanned and digitally stored in the  
3        portable scanner.
  
- 1        3.    The method of claim 2, wherein the uploading of the  
2        scanned barcode comprises  
3        establishing a communication path between the portable  
4        scanner and a Point of Sale (POS) system at a retail store;  
5        and  
6        transmitting the scanned barcode to the POS system for  
7        processing.
  
- 1        4.    The method of claim 2, wherein prior to processing  
2        at least the scanned barcode, the method comprises retrieving  
3        coupon barcodes from a storage location on a server associated  
4        with a customer assigned the portable scanner, the coupon  
5        barcodes being electronic coupons that have been non-redeemed  
6        to date.

1           5.    The method of claim 2, wherein prior to processing  
2 at least the scanned barcode, the method comprises scanning  
3 coupon barcodes from paper coupons provided by a customer  
4 assigned the portable scanner.

1           6.    The method of claim 3 wherein the processing of the  
2 scanned barcode being a coupon barcode comprises comparing a  
3 manufacturer code from the coupon barcode with a product  
4 barcode read by the POS system, and if a match, analyzing each  
5 field of the coupon barcode, including a value code, an offer  
6 code, an expiration code, and any terms and conditions  
7 associated with the coupon barcode, to verify that a purchased  
8 product meets terms set by the coupon barcode.

1           7.    The method of claim 3, wherein the processing of the  
2 scanned barcode being a coupon barcode further comprises  
3 redeeming the scanned coupon by determining if a purchase of a  
4 product satisfies redemption rules and meets a plurality of  
5 terms of coupon definitions.

1           8.    The method of claim 7, wherein the redeeming of the  
2 scanned coupon further comprises generating a detailed proof  
3 of purchase for every coupon redemption transaction, the proof  
4 of purchase comprises at least two of the following: (i) a  
5 date stamp, (ii) a time stamp, (iii) a retail store location,  
6 (iv) a POS terminal location, (v) an original selling price of

7 a product purchased and associated with the scanned coupon,  
8 (vi) a face value of the scanned coupon redeemed, (vii)  
9 additional discounts offered by a retailer's POS system,  
10 (viii) a net price paid by a consumer, and (ix) an identity of  
11 the consumer who redeemed the scanned coupon.

1 9. Adapted to a portable scanner system supporting  
2 electronic coupon validation and redemption, a portable  
3 scanner comprising:  
4 a communication port;  
5 an optical converter;  
6 a processing unit in communication with the optical  
7 converter and the communication port; and  
8 an internal memory coupled to the processing unit, the  
9 internal memory comprises a plurality of data storage  
10 groupings including (1) a first data storage grouping being a  
11 list of coupons, inaccessible for redemption, that are  
12 currently available for a particular geographic region, and  
13 (2) a second data storage grouping being a list of coupons,  
14 accessible for redemption, that were scanned and matched with  
15 a coupon of the first data storage grouping.

1 10. The portable scanner of claim 9, wherein the  
2 internal memory further comprises a third data storage  
3 grouping including a list of coupons, accessible for  
4 redemption, that were scanned and unmatched with a coupon of  
5 the first data storage grouping.

1        11. The portable scanner of claim 10, wherein the  
2 internal memory further comprises a fourth data storage  
3 grouping being configured to store a manufacturer code for  
4 each manufacturer participating in the portable scanner  
5 system.

1        12. The portable scanner of claim 9 further comprising a  
2 display to illustrate coupon descriptive information being  
3 alphanumeric characters to identify at least one of the  
4 following: a value of a coupon, expiration date of a coupon,  
5 a description of a discounted product, and a description of a  
6 manufacturer of the discounted product.

1        13. The portable scanner of claim 12 further comprising  
2 an interface to enable a customer to control operations of the  
3 scanner, the interface comprises (i) at least one scroll key  
4 that, when depressed, enables a customer to scroll and review  
5 alphanumeric characters on the display, and (ii) a scan key  
6 that, when depressed, activates the optical converter to scan  
7 a data object.

1        14. The system of claim 13, wherein the internal memory  
2 further contains a unique identification number to enable  
3 identification of scanner 210 and the customer.

1        15. A portable scanner system comprising:

2           an in-store server;  
3           a Point-of-Sale (POS) system in communication with the  
4 in-store server;  
5           a portable scanner that comprises internal memory to  
6 store a plurality of electronic coupons stored as coupon  
7 barcodes;  
8           a Point-of-Sale (POS) system in communication with the  
9 portable scanner to receive downloaded electronic coupons from  
10 the portable scanner; and  
11          in-store server in communication with the POS system, the  
12 in-store server to control validation and redemption of the  
13 electronic coupons.

1          16. The system of claim 15, wherein the POS system  
2 includes a POS terminal and a docking station in communication  
3 with the POS terminal, the docking station adapted for  
4 coupling and communication with the portable scanner.

1          17. The system of claim 15 further comprising a kiosk in  
2 communication with the in-store server, the kiosk adapted for  
3 coupling and communication with the portable scanner.

1          18. The system of claim 15 further comprising a kiosk in  
2 communication with the in-store server, the kiosk comprises a  
3 scanner/barcode reader for scanning and collecting printed  
4 coupons deposited by a customer, coupon information read by

5 the scanner/barcode reader is stored within a database in the  
6 in-store server.

1 19. A method comprising:  
2 comparing a manufacturer code from a coupon barcode with  
3 a product barcode read by a Point-of-Sale (POS) system; and  
4 if a match, analyzing each field of the coupon barcode,  
5 including a value code, an offer code, an expiration code, and  
6 any other terms and conditions associated with the coupon  
7 barcode, to verify that a purchased product and date of  
8 purchase satisfies each term set by the coupon barcode.